

The Gull

Golden Gate Audubon Society Newsletter

Volume 15 No. 2 February 2000



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1999 Annual Report of The Golden Gate Audubon Society

(This Report is available to the general public.)

The Golden Gate Audubon Society, established in 1917 and incorporated in 1952, is one of the oldest conservation organizations in the Bay Area as well as on the entire West Coast.

We serve the citizens and the wildlife of San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond,

Albany, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Kensington, San Pablo, Moraga and Orinda.

Our organization is dedicated to the preservation and enjoyment of the Bay Area's natural resources, particularly its wildlife. To accomplish this goal we are active in the areas of education, research advocacy and recreation.

This year we took over one thousand people on field trips to sites all around the Bay Area, the State and even internationally. These trips bring increased awareness and appreciation of our wildlife resources and their increasingly threatened status.

We brought the "Audubon Adventures", an environmental newsletter developed by the National Audubon Society, to over 50 classes, well over 1200 students, in the Central Bay Area.

We continued our efforts to establish the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge on the closing Alameda Naval Air Station. This Refuge will provide a home to over 100 bird and small mammal species, including one of the most important nesting colonies of the endangered California Least Tern. While it is now certain that a Refuge will be established (in large part due to the efforts of Golden Gate Audubon) there was still a question of how large the Refuge would be. We played an important and successful role in assuring that the Refuge will be of a size adequate for the needs of the species it will sustain. We also are working to ensure that the Refuge is provided adequate security from intruders during the breeding season of the Least Tern (which nests right on the ground and is very

Vote for the Environment

Vote Yes on Propositions 12 and 13

California voters will have the rare opportunity on the March ballot of voting for two bond measures that are critical to the survival of our natural world in California. Proposition 12 will provide essential dollars for land acquisition. The last such bond measure, Proposition 70, was passed more than 5 years ago, and its money has long since been exhausted. There is no secure large funding source for land acquisition now available to state agencies; yes the only real security for our precious wetlands and rivers, forests and grasslands is acquisition. If we want to see our wetlands and forests survive in the future we need to put them in public ownership. Proposition 12 must pass if we want to see such acquisitions take place. Proposition 12 will provide acquisition dollars to the Coastal Conservancy, State Parks, and the Department of Fish and Game's acquisition arm, and also will provide funds to local conservancies and help in the acquisition of local parks.

Proposition 13 also provides needed dollars for wetlands and riparian habitat acquisition.

The future of our state's natural areas depends upon the success of Propositions 12 and 13. Please Vote for Prop 12 and Prop 13.

If you want to help work for the passage of these Propositions, please give us a call. 510-845-2222.

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Field Trips Calendar

GA field trips are conducted by experienced birders who wish to share their knowledge and love of birds with others. All trips are free of charge (except for entrance fees that may be charged by regional, state, or national parks) and are open to everyone, regardless of membership in the National Audubon Society or Golden Gate chapter.

Sunday January 30, PANOCHÉ VALLEY.

See January Gull for details. Leader: Chris Carpenter (510) 569-9281 day, (510) 547-2201 eve.

Saturday February 5, GRIZZLY AND JOICE ISLANDS, Solano County.

See January Gull for details. Leader: Robin Leong (707) 643-1287.

Sunday February 6, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

See March 5th trip for details. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Sunday February 6, PESCADERO MARSH, San Mateo County.

See January Gull for details. Leader: Leora Feeney (510) 522-8525. \$

Wednesday February 9, MINI-TRIP TO COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK.

See January Gull for details. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 & Jean-Marie Spoelman. (\$) (*)

Sunday February 13, ARROWHEAD MARSH, Alameda County.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. at the fishing pier at the end of the road. Take Hwy 880 (Nimitz) to the Hegenberger Rd. exit.

Drive west to Doolittle Drive and turn right. Turn right at the first traffic signal onto Swan Way. Turn left after a block and take the dirt road to the parking lot at the end. Possible on this trip: thousands of shorebirds and ducks, raptors, Clapper Rail and more. Bring scope if you have one. Beginners and all levels of birders welcome. Rain does NOT cancel. Be prepared to saunter at least 1.5 miles. Trip expected to end by 1:30. Leader: Courtenay Peddle (510) 532-8911 -do not call after 8 p.m. E-mail: caped-dle@there.net.

Sunday February 13, A BIRDING TRIP FOR CYCLISTS.

Jeff Black will lead a 20-mile cycling trip through Mill Valley and Tiburon, stopping to bird the marshes along the way. Call Jeff at (510) 526-7068 for meeting place and time.

Saturday, February 19, McLAREN PARK and HERON'S HEAD PARK, San Francisco.

Meet at 8:30 a.m. at McLaren Park at the intersection of Cambridge and John F. Shelley Drive. To reach McLaren, exit Hwy 101 at Silver Ave. Go west on Silver to Cambridge. We should see Bewick's Wren, Western Meadowlark and other "common" birds we don't often see in the City. We will then caravan to Heron's Head Park where there will be ducks, shorebirds and more. Leader: Alan Hopkins (415) 664-0983. E-mail: ash@sfo.com (*)

Sunday, February 20, COYOTE HILLS REGIONAL PARK.

Meet at the visitor center parking lot at 9:00 am. We will bird the hills and surrounding marsh. Bring liquids and

a snack. Be prepared for muddy trails. From the East Bay take I-880 south to Newark and exit at Rt. 84/Dumbarton Bridge exit. Go right (west) and exit on Paseo Padre Pkwy. Turn right and continue north to Patterson Ranch Rd. and follow the signs to Coyote Hills. Drive to the end of the road. Leader: Anthony Fisher (510) 658-8769.

E-mail: Loveisant@aol.com. (\$)

Sunday, February 27, LAS GALLINAS SEWER PONDS, Marin County.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking lot. Take 101 north and exit at the Lucas Valley Drive/Smith Ranch Road off ramp. Go east on Smith Ranch Road to the end. Take a sharp left to the sewage treatment ponds, just before the county park. Drive past the headquarters to the parking lot on the left. We will see wintering ducks and shorebirds, keeping in mind that anything can show up. Trip will end at noon. Beginners welcome. Leader: Mark Eaton (415) 566-6767. E-mail: eaton@best.com.

Sunday March 5, STRYBING ARBORETUM.

Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front gate of the Arboretum (9th Ave. and Lincoln Way) for this regular 1st Sunday of the month half-day trip. The Strybing Arboretum is a delightful section of Golden Gate Park, with several "micro-habitats" attracting a varied array of resident, migrant and vagrant birds. Beginners and all others welcome. Leaders: Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna (415) 566-3241.

Wednesday March 8, MINI TRIP TO MITCHELL CANYON, Contra Costa County.

Meet at 9:30 a.m. Take Hwy. 24

GGAS Calendar

FAWR Fundraiser

Sunday, February 6

Ano Nuevo and Pescadero Marsh

February Meeting

Thursday, February 17, 2000

Northbrae Community Church

7:00 p.m. Refreshments/Doors open

7:30 p.m. Program

See back cover for details

February Board of Directors Meeting

Monday, February, 28, 2000

7:30 p.m.

GGAS Office, Berkeley

Joe Morlan's Spring Birding Classes

Beginning In February

Contact: 415-561-1860

FAWR Spring Birding Classes With John Luthier

Begins on March 14

Contact: College of Alameda 510-748-2228

Panama Field Trip

March 16-26, 2000

Contact: Steve Margolin at 530-342-6476.

National Audubon Society Convention 2000

Friday April 14 – Tuesday, April 18, 2000

Asilomar Conference Center,

Monterey

through the Caldecott Tunnel. At Walnut Creek take the Ygnacio Valley Rd. exit. Go approximately 8 miles, then turn right onto Clayton Rd. Go one mile and make a right onto Mitchell Canyon Rd. and proceed to the parking lot at the end of the road. This is a delightful area with easy streamside walking and many songbirds. Wear shoes suitable for walking in mud and bring your lunch. Rain cancels trip. Leaders: Anna Wilcox (510) 351-9301 and Jean-Marie Spoelman. (\$)

Saturday March 11, HAYWARD SHORELINE.

Meet at 8 a.m. at the Hayward Shoreline Interpretive Center, 4901 Breakwater Avenue, for this half-day trip. The marsh habitat at Hayward Shoreline is great for ducks and raptors. Depending on tide, shorebirds should either be feeding on the mud-flats or roosting in the marsh area. Directions: from Oakland, take I-880

south to Hwy. 92 (Hayward/San Mateo Bridge exit). Go west towards San Mateo. Exit Hwy. 92 at Clawiter, cross Clawiter onto Breakwater Ct., and turn left onto Breakwater Avenue. The Interpretive Center is at the end of the road. Beginners welcome. Leader: Rusty Scalf (510) 666-9936. E-mail: Rscalf@jps.net

Plan Ahead: March 25, SF Bird Blitz with Alan Hopkins.

Trips marked with a (\$) go to parks or other sites which require an entrance fee. Carpooling arrangements will be attempted by leader for trips marked with a (*).

Problems, etc.: If you need a ride or can take a passenger (even if a trip is not marked with an (*), if you need information and have difficulty reaching a field trip leader, if you have suggestions for trips, or IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN LEADING A TRIP, call Lillian Fujii (510) 236-4167, Field Trips Committee Chair.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Palo Alto/Charleston Slough, 11/14/99, Harry Fuller: 15 participants and 84 species, including brightly plumaged male Common and Barrow's Goldeneye, the only goldeneyes in the lake, "flocking" together. **Coyote Hills**, 11/15/99, Peter Allen reports that for the last two years, the numbers of shorebirds in the salt ponds have been declining as compared with other sites around the Bay; that this may be related to dredging of the ponds by the salt company which happens every 10/15 years. This episode began in 1998 and continues now. 10 participants and 61 species. **Berkeley Aquatic Park**, 11/10/99, Anna Wilcox/Jean-Marie Spoelman. 19 participants and 51 species, including 50 Snowy Egrets. Redheads missed this year. **Strybing Arboretum**, Allan Ridley, 11/7/99, 32 participants and 50 species, including Green Heron and 2 Ca. Quail. **Las Gallinas**, Jeff Black, 10/24/99. 20 participants and about 39 species, including large concentrations of No. Pintails, No. Shovelers, Avocets, great views of ducks. **Point Reyes Bird Blitz**, Leon Abrams and Cathy Purchis, 10/16/99, 14 participants, including folks from New Zealand, Holland and Eastern U.S. thanks to the web page, 94 species. **Emeryville and Berkeley Shoreline**, Wilcox and Spoelman, 10/13/99. 20 participants and 40 species. Sea duck numbers low this year; 100 Sanderlings. **Strybing Arboretum**, Allan Ridley and Helen McKenna, 10/3/99. 40 participants and 56 species; highlight being great views of hunting juvenile Red-tailed Hawk. **End of Grant Street, San Leandro**, Rusty Scalf, 10/10/99. 11 participants and 61 species, including thousands of shorebirds and nice assortment of raptors, including Peregrine Falcon and Merlin.

News from Audubon Canyon Ranch

As our holiday stress quickens, the approaching solstice brings some welcome calm to our three preserves. Docents at our Bouverie and Bolinas Lagoon Preserves have completed their fall school programs (having taught over 3000 schoolchildren). Our resident critters are hunkering down to some serious hibernating and adjusting to less food and sunshine. And hardy bands of volunteers are slowly gearing up for the winter bird counts (please call 415/663-8203 if you can help with some serious winter birding by boat).

Bolinas Lagoon Preserve

Over the past few years Len Blumin and his feisty crew of weed-busters have been attacking the scourge of cape ivy in our Volunteer Canyon. While there's no real substitute for hand-pulling the weed, this back-breaking work has become daunting. After much research it was decided to call in the 4-legged ivy-busters - a herd of hungry goats arrived this fall to munch up several acres of the rampant non-native. So far, so good, reports our Resident Biologist Greg de Nevers. We'll share our findings with others, including the Park Service, whose lands are also victimized by cape ivy. Would control-burn work better? Stay tuned.

If you've enjoyed hosting on weekends during the beautiful spring nesting season, you know how rewarding it can be to know about the natural world of Bolinas Lagoon Preserve. We urge you to consider becoming an ACR Ranch Guide and join the Training Program of six Saturdays, from January 22 to February 26. Trainees will attend lectures and nature walks by ACR's four biologists and other naturalists. Once

trained, they share their knowledge with others during our public weekends from March to July. Please call 415/868-9244 for more information.

Bouverie Preserve

Our guided nature walks through lovely Bouverie Preserve in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon continue on the following Saturdays: December 11, January 29, March 11 and 25, April 8 and 22, and May 6 and 13. Call 707/938-4554 for a lottery form.

It's not too early to fill out your 2000 calendar with our always popular free lunches (coinciding, conveniently, with our Spring Work Days). Please save the Saturday mornings of February 12 at Bouverie and March 5 at Bolinas Lagoon.

Two ACR staff members have recently been honored. Our remarkable Biologist and Education Specialist, Rebecca Anderson-Jones, has been appointed to the Environmental Education Council of Marin. And Cristina Valdez, the director of the Cross-Cultural Environmental Leadership Program (sponsored for the last 5 years by ACR and now sponsored by the National Audubon Society), was just awarded the first Hannah Creighton Environmental Justice Award.

Audubon Hike Day at Bouverie Preserve

Each year Audubon Canyon Ranch saves one special spring day to open Bouverie

Preserve to our Audubon friends. This year the Audubon Hike Day will be Saturday, May 20, 9:30-1:30. Those of you whose names are drawn by lottery (this day is that popular!) will have a guided nature walk through this beautiful preserve in Sonoma's Valley of the Moon during its spec-

tacular wildflower season. To receive a form for the drawing, call the Bouverie office at 707/938-4554.

How to ID A Bird

On Sunday September 26, Mark Eaton lead a group of 20 enthusiastic birders through coastal San Francisco. Among the birds seen was a Philadelphia Vireo, first found by Jennifer Matkin. Here is Mark's process for eliminating similar species and identifying the bird:

"A small passerine notable for a rather stout bill. The crown was grayish olive, having little contrast with the uniformly olive back, wings, rump and upper tail, with no hint of wing bars. The white supercilium was well defined and contrasted strongly with the dark eye line, which extended well to the rear of the eye and forward most of the way to the bill. The head was relatively flat and the overall impression was of a rather sleek bird. The eye was dark. Immediately below the eye line were paler feathers giving the superficial impression of a CASSIN'S VIREO'S spectacles, broken by the obvious dark eye line. The lower face was uniformly gray. The underparts were uniformly fairly bright yellow, extending uniformly and undiminished all the way to the base of the lower mandible. The legs were dark. The heavy bill pretty much eliminates all neotropical wood warblers and YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT can be eliminated by facial pattern, tail

January 2000 Donations

Golden Eagle (\$1000 or more)

Susan S. and Ron Briggs, in support of the Least Tern colony at ANWR with a matching grant from The Flora Family Foundation

Peregrine Falcon (\$500 or more)

I. Von Der Hude
Alan Harper

Least Tern (\$200 or more)

Ingrid Overgard, Elizabeth Esther Rosenberg and John Hunt Kenny, Barbara and Frederick Dengler, Douglas Sherk, Yvette Simpson, Rebecca Freed for the ANWR, Regina Phelps/Health Plus, Dorothy and Robert O'Brien, Janice and Frank Delfino, Carol Sughrue.

Clapper Rail (\$100 or more)

For habitat preservation, Jane and Michael Larkin; Clyde A. Morris, Rose S. Vose and Arthur Feinstein, Iris Richards, Amy Geoffroy, Patricia Gannon, Julia and Dean Mayberry, Dorothy Gregor, Sylvia McLaughlin, and Joyce and James Schnobirch.

Gifts (to \$99)

Edward J. Reioux, Katherine and Philip Parkes, Richard Bradus, M.D., Susan and Michael Meadows, Olive L. Bavins, William Schoenherr, M.S. Holland, Linda B. Tabor-Beck, Peter Seubert, Mary V. and Robert L. Mayer, Charlotte Nolan, David J. Thomas, Leonard Horwitz, Beatrice Rosenthal, Juliette and William Wheeler, Betty Pollock, Diane Wilson, David R. Thompson, Nancy Mennel and David Kessler, Sandra Lee and Richard King Haugner, Dan Eisenstein, Rita Brenner and Leonard Schwab, Caroline and Robert Lichtenstein, Rebecca Robinson, Benson Lee, Rima Goldman, David Dudley and Lisa Asta, Irene Fabrikant, Richard Gale, Michelle Weinman, Mildred J. and Edward L. Bennett, Susan Huang and Michael Lynch, Judith Davis, Carol Patton, Madeline Tank and Helen Trimborn, Audrey and Jerry Jedlicka, Laura Stern and Michele Nichols, Eveyln Kutsuris, Adrienne Debisschop, Brenda Ann Buxton and Stephen Walsh, Marion and James Russell, Catherine Dunbar, Carol Maddison, Luanne Gilbert, Jean Puffer, Ann and Larry Sullivan, Suzanne Good, Helene and George Tee, Esther and Robert Oswalt, Herta Weinstein, Marion Gillen, Hannelore and Robert Lewis, Ellen Noller, Jane

Wrench, and Timothy Michael Walsh.

Birds of Distinction

Rebecca Freed for the Clapper Rail and Black Skimmers on Harry Fuller's Palo Alto Baylands field trip.

In Memoriam:

Coworkers of Patricia A. Pierce in memory of John R. Pierce.
Danny Wegener, a fellow skateboarder, in memory of Tim Brauch.
Jane and Michael Larkin in memory of Gerald Ungar.

Note

In the January GULL we acknowledged a Peregrine Falcon donation from SPUR.

While the donation came from SPUR it was actually forwarded to GGAS through the kindness and generosity of Carlo Bach, a dedicated employee of the Port of San Francisco.

The Society Welcomes gifts in general or gifts in honor of or in memory of relatives and friends. Such gifts will be used as specified by the donor or, if unspecified, at the discretion of the GGAS Board of Directors. This includes their use of general GGAS activities or for special programs of the Society. Please send your gift in the form of a check made out to Golden Gate Audubon Society, 2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G, Berkeley, CA 94702. All gifts are tax deductible. The Society is also appreciative of any bequests. Such bequests should specify as recipient the Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. All gifts, donations and bequests will be acknowledged in The Gull, as well as personally on behalf of the Society by the Secretary.

formula and belly color. TENNESSEE WARBLER is eliminated by uniformly yellow undertail coverts and heavier bill. In the genus *vireo*, most species can be eliminated by the absence of any wing bars. YELLOW-GREEN VIREO is eliminated by the facial pattern and the lack of a red eye. RED-EYED VIREO is further eliminated by the absence of a black line separating the crown from the supercilium, as is BLACK-WHISKERED VIREO. This leaves us with PHILADELPHIA VIREO (PHVI) and WARBLING

VIREO (WAVI), the differentiation of which merits considerable discussion. The overall impression was of a slighter bird than the WAVI, with less heavy body and, in particular a more slender head with no hint of a crested appearance which is found on many WAVI. Most fall WAVI tend to have noticeable contrast between the crown and back, although I don't know how reliable this is. Although there was a WAVI in the area, I did not get a look at both at the same time to do a precise size differentiation. While some bright

WAVI can approach the brightness of a PHVI, few have uniformly bright yellow all the way to the base of the lower mandible. The eye line on a fall WAVI tends to be less dark and show little contrast from the rest of the face and tends not to extend much into the loral area, and few WAVI show an almost spectacled appearance. Most WAVI show significant contrast between the crown and back as well as a slight crested appearance." —Mark Eaton

Have a Wonderful Experience: Help Us Host at the Audubon Canyon Ranch

April may be the cruellest month for some, but not for the Egrets and Great Blue Herons at Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) and certainly not for you when you act as a host at ACR.

What is ACR? Audubon Canyon Ranch (ACR) is an organization that now operates three sanctuaries in the North Bay; two in Marin and one in Sonoma County. It was formed when a group of people heard that there was a plan to create a new residential community in Bolinas Lagoon. The Golden Gate, Marin and Sequoia Audubon Societies stepped in and joined with local folks in defeating that development proposal.

Shortly after, the ACR Bolinas Preserve heron and egret rookery was purchased, again with the help of the Audubon Societies. In fact, we recently came across a tax paper that indicates that GGAS might have been the purchasing agent and briefly

owned the Bolinas Preserve before it was transferred to ACR.

In any case, ever since that time, GGAS has served on the Board of ACR and has worked to make ACR the great sanctuary system that it is. One of the joys of working with ACR is that you get to go to the Bolinas Lagoon Preserve and see all those beautiful birds preening, courting, mating, laying eggs, incubating, hatching and then fledging the chicks. It's life, and most of us see all too little of it nowadays.

Well, here's your excuse to get away for a day and experience nature. Become an ACR host. Each year from mid-March to mid-July the Bolinas Preserve is open weekends to all visitors. The Bolinas Preserve gets thousands of visitors each year and we need volunteers to help direct the visitors to the trails, the birds, the nature museum, the bookstore and of course, the bathrooms.

It's a lot of fun. ACR will send you all the information you need so that you will be well informed when people ask you questions about the birds. You'll meet interesting people and provide a real service to ACR. And you get to see the birds and the redwoods yourself (we have enough hosts each weekend day so that everyone gets time to go off for a walk to enjoy the preserve). You will be hosting with fellow GGAS members who are a very enjoyable bunch of people. After all, you are one.

Our hosting days are April 1, 2, 22, 23 (Easter), May 13, June 4, 17, 24, 25. So please call our ACR-Host volunteer coordinator Bill Hering at 415-863-3625 and sign up for spring day at ACR's Bolinas Preserve. Call Bill and select a date you can make and have a great time. We look forward to seeing you there.

Audubon 2000 Convention Set For Asilomar, April 14-18

Audubon: The Gateway to Nature will be the theme of Audubon's 2000 meeting which will be held at the Asilomar Conference Center on the spectacular Monterey Bay peninsula, April 14-18, 2000.

Audubon's 2000 Vision calls for an Audubon Center in every community and a network of Audubon Centers in each state. The 2000 convention will focus on the development of these Centers. To demonstrate how Centers can accomplish educational, activist and conser-

vation goals, Audubon will transform the Asilomar Conference grounds into a virtual Audubon Center.

In addition to the on site program there will be an exciting variety of field trips including California Condor and Kern River Valley trips. There will also be a variety of half-day trips to local birding spots in Monterey County.

Make plans to attend and participate in Convention 2000. More details will follow in subsequent GULLS.

It's Hard to Do The Right Thing

By Arthur Feinstein – Executive Director

I've loved ferries since I was a kid. The Staten Island ferry (I am, as are many, a transplanted New Yorker—here for nearly thirty years now), a ferry ride on Lake Champlain in New York and other ferry rides, all provided me with memorable experiences as a child.

The wonderful (or so I thought) ferries of the Puget Sound have brochures that identify the birds you are likely to see on your ferry trip. When I saw those brochures for the first time I was already involved with GGAS and I thought, what a wonderful way to get people interested in nature and birds.

So when Sunne McPeak of the Bay Area Council asked me to serve on a Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop water transit in the Bay Area I was pleased to accept the invitation. The Task Force was chaired by Ron Cowan, an ardent ferry advocate and a past developer who was responsible for the creation of Harbor Bay Isle in Alameda.

Ironically, we (GGAS) had sued Ron in the 1980's over his proposal to establish ferryboat service to Harbor Bay Isle. We were concerned that the ferries might disturb the eelgrass beds located near the ferry route. Eelgrass is rare marine vegetation that is very valuable to fish, serving as a nursery site for baby fish. Since it supports fish populations, eelgrass is also important for fish-eating birds such as the endangered California Least Tern. Our successful lawsuit resulted in Harbor Bay Isle performing a study on the impact of a proposed ferry service on the eelgrass. The studies showed no significant impact and several years of operation seem to bear that out.

The Task force also had as members such luminaries as Mayors Willie Brown and Jerry Brown and many other civic leaders. For the environmental community there could be found myself and Marcella Jacobson

of Save the Bay.

While fond of ferries, I thought I knew of the damage they can cause to aquatic ecosystems. The wakes of the existing Larkspur Ferry have caused significant erosion of a neighboring marsh. The locating of a ferry terminal next to marshes would therefore not be a good idea.

So the Task Force went to work and, while it was not without resistance, we were able to craft a water transit plan that seemed to avoid the environmental damage that we were seeking to avoid. We, with the help of Ron Cowan and Sunne McPeak, convinced the Task Force to eliminate four ferry terminal sites from the plan. These sites were all sites that would have put a terminal right next to sensitive wetlands that provided habitat for endangered species. These sites were Alviso and Fremont in the South Bay and Port Sonoma and Hamilton in the North Bay.

We were also able to get very good language into the plan expressing the need for full environmental documentation of the plan before it is approved by the legislature. The Plan also included the stated goal of avoiding environmental impact to the greatest extent possible. And then the whole thing blew up in our face.

It turns out that there is a good chance that ferries are more polluting than cars, passenger per passenger. The whole point of the water Transit plan was to improve the environment, not to make it worse by increasing air pollution (thanks to the Blue Water Network for identifying this potential catastrophe). And then we learned that several communities, in Seattle and in Maine, had launched lawsuits against their local ferry service because the new catamaran ferry boats (that we had been assured had no wake/erosion problems) were causing significant damage to beaches and wetlands in those communities. In fact, in Seattle the

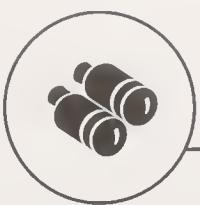
"high speed" ferries are now under court order to go no faster than 12 mph.

To top it all off, at the last moment Senator John Burton added an amendment to the enabling legislation that created a Water Transit Authority to implement the Water Transit Plan that we had constructed. This amendment removed the restrictions we had worked so hard to impose on siting terminals at Alviso, Fremont, Port Sonoma and Hamilton. So what began with high hopes ended with unhappy fears. Would the new ferries' wakes destroy our wetlands? Would new ferry terminals be built in inappropriate sites that would threaten marshes and endangered species? Would our air quality suffer as a result of a transit system that was supposed to improve our environment? Would 70 new ferries on the Bay disturb our roosting waterfowl and lead to fewer of them returning each year?

Perhaps all these fears will prove unfounded. Happily, the Water Transit Authority is obligated to perform a full Environmental Impact Report on the ferry proposal and through that process we can raise questions about ferry wakes and air pollution and inappropriate terminal locations. We'll keep you informed and hope you will help us respond if our fears prove well founded.

Furthermore, although a Water Transit Authority was created by legislation, it was not funded. So we will have a chance, next year, to speak out during the legislative appropriation process.

I still love the idea of ferries. I still hope it can be worked out so that our wetlands, waterfowl and endangered species, and our air quality are not put at risk. Let's all keep our fingers crossed, but be ready to write your letters if the answers are not what we hope for.



Observations

by Collin G. Murphy, Ph.D.

November 30–December 29, 1999

A dry December made for pleasant bird-watching, and CBC species tallies were at average numbers or above, even though the lack of storms may have reduced the vagrants pushed in our direction. Some sample unofficial totals to date are: Big Sur, Dec. 18: 142 (range 137–142), Santa Cruz, Dec. 18: 196 (ties previous record), and Monterey Peninsula, Dec. 28: 181 (average 174).

Albatross to Ducks.

The Laysan Albatross that has spent several winters at Point Area Cove, MEN, returned Dec. 4 (DS). Seventeen Northern Fulmars were spotted on a seawatch from Pillar Point, SM, Dec. 18 (PM). Unusual for the coast was a flock of 19 White-faced Ibis over Capitola's shoreline, SCZ, on Dec. 24 (DSu). Greater White-fronted Geese were seen in several coastal locations: two to three were at the San Lorenzo R., SCZ, Dec. ~1–29 (DB, VW, DSu), one was at Redwood Shores, SM, Dec. 20 (fide AD), another was at Crespi Pond, Pacific Grove, MTY, Dec. 25–28 (MPRBA, SRv), and 6 were seen at Seaside, MTY, Dec. 28 (SRv). The College of Alameda, ALA, hosted a Snow Goose as well as a Ross's Goose Dec. 13 (JL). Other Ross's Geese found on the coast were one at Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, MRN, Dec. 15 (RS), two at the San Lorenzo R. mouth, SCZ, Dec. 16–17 (MS, AG), four at Moss Landing, MTY, Dec. 22 (TG), and others with Snow Geese at Lake Cunningham, San Jose, SCL, Dec. 23 (LC). Harkins Slough, SCZ, was an unusual coastal site for a Tundra Swan Dec. 12 (WM).

At least 27 Eurasian Wigeons were reported over ALA, HUM, MRN, MTY, MEN, SF, SM, SCL, and SON counties,

with a high count of at least 10 at Bolinas Lagoon Pond, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 14, along with two "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal (RS). Another "Eurasian" Green-winged Teal was reported from Palo Alto Baylands, SCL, Dec. 25 (BP). An adult male Tufted Duck was at Leo Ryan Park, Foster City, SM, Dec. 17–22 (AKr, RT, MH), another Tufted Duck was at L. Merritt, ALA, Dec. 19 (KL), and two females at Salt Pond A9, Alviso, SCL, Dec. 19 (SR) were joined by a male Dec. 28 (MD). A Harlequin Duck first seen Nov. 25 continued at Monterey Harbor, MTY, as of Dec. 7 (MPRBA) and the 8 Harlequin Ducks reported Nov. 23 from Glass Beach, MEN, had increased to 11 as of Dec. 7–9 (FB, SH). Others were sighted off Chimney Rock and the Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 12 (CLi). There was an Oldsquaw at Tomales Bay, MRN, Dec. 18 (HF), and two others were found in Monterey Harbor, MTY, during the CBC Dec. 28 (MPRBA). More than 50 Hooded Mergansers were observed over SCZ, ALA, HUM, DN, SM, SCZ, MAD, with by far the most birds (38!) at Marina Lagoon, SM, Dec. 7 (GN).

Raptors to Gulls.

There was a juvenile Broad-winged Hawk at Half Moon Bay, SM, Dec. 4 (RT). At least 25 reports of Rough-legged Hawks were received over GLE, HUM, MRN, MTY, PLA, SON, and YOL counties with one to ten or more at the intersection of Roads 16 & 90B, YOL, Dec. 11–12 (KG, HC, BF, MOB). Two coastal Sandhill Cranes were found: at Shively, HUM, Dec. 6–8 (ABB) and at Las Gallinas Sewage Ponds, MRN, Dec. 19–25 (NW). Two Pacific Golden-Plovers were at Arcata, HUM, Dec. 1 (ABB), two to six near Pigeon Pt., SM, Dec. 11–12 (SR, LC),

two near the MCI Station, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 12–14 (CLi, RS), two at the Mendosa Ranch, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 12 (CLi), and a single bird on the MTY coast between Pt. Joe and Bird Rock, Dec. 28 (MTY CBC fide SRv). Up to 20 Mountain Plovers were at the intersection of Rds. 102 and 17, YOL, Dec. 11–12 (KG, LE, HC), while 60 were found at the intersection of Roads 88 & 16, YOL, Dec. 28 (DA, LE). One of three Rock Sandpipers reported in late November at Virgin Creek, MacKerricher SP, MEN, continued as of Dec. 9 (SH). Another Rock Sandpiper at Wilder Ranch, SCZ, Dec. 18–28 was reported to be a 4th county record (DSu).

The **Lesser Black-backed Gull** (*Larus fuscus*) that returned on Nov. 1 was seen again at Lake Cunningham, SCL, Dec. 4–26 (JMo, KG, LC, MOB). Six single Glaucous Gulls were reported from MTY, PLA, SAC, SCL, and YOL counties and three birds were at Patricks Point, HUM, Nov. 29 (ABB). A late Black-legged Kittiwake was at New Brighton State Beach, SCZ, Dec. 15 (DSu). Eleven Black Skimmers continued at Charleston Slough, SM, Dec. 11 (SR). Five Craveri's Murres were seen on SCZ county waters on Dec. 18 (SA).

Owls to Wood Warblers.

Unusual for Berkeley, ALA, was a Burrowing Owl at the foot of Gilman Street, Nov. 30 (DG, BH), and another was seen on the breakwater north of Cesar Chavez Park, Berkeley, ALA, Dec. 25 (EB). An unseasonable Rufous Hummingbird was found at the UC Berkeley Botanical Garden Dec. 19–20 (LF, SHy). The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker first reported Nov. 20 at Rancho Del Oso/Big Basin, SCZ, was still present Nov. 30–Dec. 7 (DSu, AE,

Wood Warbler Sightings

Tennessee Warbler

Dec. 19 L. Merced, SF PM
Dec. 27 Lighthouse Field, SCZ DSu

Nashville Warbler

Nov. 30 Bodega Bay, SON MP
Dec. 2-3 (2) Bayshore, ABB
Eureka, HUM
Dec. 5 Tunitas Creek, SM AG
Dec. 9 Soquel Creek, SCZ DSu
Dec. 13-14 Lighthouse Field, SCZ AK, DSu
Dec. 18 (3) Olema Marsh, fide DWi
PRNS, MRN
Dec. 20 (5) Pilarcitos Creek, SM fide AD
Dec. 25 MacLaren Lodge, CL, ASH
GGP, SF
Dec. 26 L. Merced, SF PM
Dec. 27-29 Natural Bridges DSu, MS
SP, SCZ

Lucy's Warbler

Dec. 26-29 Oakland, ALA SD

Chestnut-sided Warbler

Dec. 12 Merced NWR, MER JS

Black-throated Blue Warbler

Dec. 24-28 MacLaren Lodge, ASH, CL

GGP, SF

Black-throated Gray Warbler

Dec. 12 (2)	Consumes R. Preserve, SAC	JT
Dec. 14	Lighthouse Field, Santa Cruz, SCZ	DSu
Dec. 14	Wilkes Circle, SCZ	JD
Dec. 19	UC Berkeley, ALA	OC, KL
Dec. 27	Natural Bridges SP, SCZ	DSu
Dec. 28	GGP, SF	ASH

BP, PS). Just for fun, it might be worth mentioning that a Blue Mockingbird, a Mexican species never before recorded in CA, was reported from Long Beach, LA, Dec. 5 (BP). Late records were reportedly obtained for a Yellow Warbler and a Wilson's Warbler, both wintering at Seaside, MTY, as of Dec. 6 (MPRBA). Other unusual Wood Warbler reports are given in the accompanying chart.

Tanagers to Orioles.

A Summer Tanager appeared at the Carmel R. Inn for MTY Peninsula CBC, Dec. 28 (SRv). An American Tree Sparrow was found at the Limantour Parking Lot, PRNS, MRN, Dec. 4 (DF). Two Clay-colored Sparrows were at Arcata Bottoms, HUM, Dec. 1 (ABB), one was at a feeder in SCZ, Dec. 24 (WM), and another was at San Gregorio Creek, SM, Dec. 26 (RT).

Blackburnian Warbler

Nov. 1- Laguna Grande Lake, SRV
Dec. 15 MTY AK, MOB

Prairie Warbler

Dec. 2 Harkins Slough, SCZ TN
Dec. 11 Half Moon Bay, SM RI

Palau Warbler

Dec. 5 Smith R., DN ABB
Dec. 6-15 Laguna Grande RW, MPRBA Park, MTY
Dec. 14 Fish Docks, PRNS, MRN RS
Dec. 18-27 Soquel Creek, SCZ DSu
Dec. 28 Pacific Grove, MTY MPRBA

Black-and-white Warbler

Dec. 3 Cooper Gulch, ABB
Eureka, HUM
Dec. 11 Arroyo Leon Creek, SM RT
Dec. 10-18 Princeton, SM RT & fide AD
Dec. 18 Soquel Creek, SCZ DSu
Dec. 20 Junipero Serra fide AD Park, SM
Dec. 22-27 New Brighton State DSu Beach, SCZ
Dec. 28 Del Rey Oaks, MTY CBC, fide SRv
Dec. 28 Pacific Grove, MTY CBC, fide SRv

American Redstart

Dec. 2-3 Bayshore, Eureka, HUM ABB
Dec. 5 Moonglow Dairy, MTY AK

Canada Warbler

Dec. 11-12 Point Pinole DN, BS
Regional Shoreline, CC

Unusual was a Lark Sparrow at a private feeder in Capitola, SCZ, Dec. 17 (DSu). Three Grasshopper Sparrows were seen at the Consumes R. Preserve, SAC, Dec. 12 (JT). Twelve Swamp Sparrows were observed over DN, HUM, MTY, SAC, SM, and SF counties, with five birds at the Arcata Marsh Project, HUM, Dec. 5 (ABB). Fourteen White-throated Sparrows were found over ALA, CC, HUM, SM, SF, and SCZ counties, with three seen together along Conservatory Dr., GGP, SF, Dec. 24 (ASH). An immature Harris's Sparrow was eating seed in David Suddjian's yard in Capitola, SCZ, Dec. 17-18 (DSu).

A McCown's Longspur was seen near the intersection of Rds. 16 & Rd 90B, YOL, Dec. 11 (KG), and two were found there Dec. 15 and Dec. 28 (JS, DA). Single Lapland Longspurs were at Arcata Bottoms, HUM, Dec. 1

RW), and another one was reported from AMSP, MTY, Dec. 18 (SRv). A Red-naped Sapsucker was discovered at Delaveagea Park, SCZ, Dec. 18-29 (EV, DSu, TN, MOB), and another was seen on private property in Capitola, SCZ, Dec. 29 (DSu).

A Least Flycatcher was wintering in HUM County as of Dec. 15 (CN), and a Hammond's Flycatcher was near the PRNS, MRN, Headquarters, Dec. 18-26 (DWi, DD). Unusual for December was a Pacific-slope Flycatcher in Inverness, MRN, Dec. 18 (KB), and a second bird was reported from Mission Trails Park, MTY, Dec. 28 (MTY Peninsula CBC fide SRv). Two Eastern Phoebes were seen during the period: at Merced NWR, MER, Dec. 12 (JS), and at AMSP, MTY, Dec. 18 (SRv). Two Tropical Kingbirds were at Arcata, HUM, Dec. 4 (ABB), and another was found at Half Moon Bay, SM, Dec. 18 (fide AD). A **Thick-billed Kingbird** (*Tyrannus crassirostris*) returned to Ocean Colony, Half Moon Bay, SM, again this year on Dec. 18, coinciding almost perfectly with its Dec. 19, 1998 arrival date, and was still present as of Dec. 27 (GD, AW, RB). This tropical breeder is an extremely rare visitor to CA, usually seen in the U.S. only in SE Arizona. A Northern Shrike continued at the Sacramento NWR, GLE, Dec. 5-12 (MD, KB, HC), and two others were reported, one at the City of Davis Wetlands, YOL, Dec. 4 (SH), and the other at Mt. Tamalpais, MRN, Dec. 26-27 (DM, DD).

Single out-of-season Barn Swallows were spotted at Pillar Point, SM, Dec. 18 (PM), and at Sibley Regional Park, ALA, Dec. 19 (KL). An unusual location for a Mountain Bluebird was at the Baylands Athletic Center, Palo Alto, SCL, Dec. 14-26 (AD,

Observations

Continued from page 9

(ABB), and at the aforementioned YOL county intersection on Dec. 11 (KG). This particular intersection was evidently extremely popular with *Calcarius* species, because it also hosted from 5 to 33 Chestnut-collared Longspurs from Dec. 8-28 (EG, KG, HC, MOB). One other Chestnut-collared Longspur, first found in November, was still near Wavecrest Ave., Half Moon Bay, SM, Dec. 26-28 (MD, AKr). A Blue Grosbeak graced Chowchilla Sewage Ponds, MAD, Dec. 21 (PH). Six or more of those persistent Great-tailed Grackles were still at Roberts Lake, MTY, Nov. 30-Dec. 25 (MPRBA), and another remained at King Salmon, HUM, Nov. 30-Dec. 8 (ABB). Another species with an expanding range is the Orchard Oriole, which sent a representative to Laguna Grande, Seaside, MTY, Dec. 1-15 (BH, SRv, AK, MOB).

Abbreviations for Observers: SA, Steve Allison; DA, Dick Ashford; RB, Richard Barrows; FB, Florence Bennett; EB, Erica Berman; DB, David Bockman; KB, Ken Burton; OC, Ore Camri; LC, Luke Cole; HC, Hugh Cotter; JD, Jeff Davis; GD, Gary Deghi; AD, Al DeMartini; DD, David DeSante; SD, Sheila Dickey; MD, Matthew Dodder; LE, Leo Edson; AE, Al Eisner; BF, Bill Frenfell; DF, Dan Froelich; LF, Lillian Fujii; HF, Harry Fuller; AG, Alexander Gaguine; DG, Debra Goleta; FG, Ed Greaves; TG, Tom Grey; KG, Kevin Guse; SH, Steve Hampton; SHy, Steve Hashi; MH, Marilyn Hemmeter; PH, Pablo Herrera; BH, Bill Hill; BHo, Bob Hogan; ASH, Alan S.Hopkins; AK, Anna Kopitov; AKr, Andy Kratter; CL, Cindy Lieurance; KL, Kay Loughman; CL, Calvin Lou; JL, John Luther; WM, Wayne Macon; DM, Dave McKenzie; PM, Peter Metropoulos; JMo, Joe Morlan; CN, Christy Nelson; DN, Dan Nelson; TN, Todd Newberry; GN, Gary Nunn; MP, Mike Parmeter; BP, Bill Principe; SR, Steve Rottenborn; SRv, Steve Rovell; PS, Paul Saraceni; MS, Michelle Scott; DS, Diane Sierra; BS, Bo Soderstrom; RS, Rich Stallcup; JS, John Sterling; DSu, David Sudjian; RT, Ron Thorn; JT, John Trochet; EV, Ed Voight; VW, Virginia Wade; NW, Nick Whelan; AW, Adam White; DW, David Wimpfheimer; RW, Roger Wolfe.

Observations for Counties and Others: ALA, Alameda; AMSP, Andrew Molera State Park; ABB, Arcata Bird Box; CBC, Christmas Bird Count; CC, Contra Costa; DN, Del Norte; GIE, Glenn; GGP, Golden Gate Park; HUM, Humboldt; LA, Los Angeles; MAD, Madera; MOB, Many Observers; MRN, Marin; MEN, Mendocino; MER, Merced; MTY, Monterey; MPRBA, Monterey Peninsula Rare Bird Alert; NWR, National Wildlife Refuge; PLA, Placer; PRNS, Point Reyes National Seashore; SAC, Sacramento; SF, San Francisco; SM, San Mateo; SCL, Santa Clara; SCZ, Santa Cruz; SON, Sonoma; SP, State Park; YOL, Yolo.

1999 Annual Report

Continued from page 1

sensitive to human intrusion).

Our Friends of the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge (FAWR) committee is dedicated to providing the Alameda and Bay Area community with interpretive services for the new Refuge and we have hired two part-time staff to help advance this program.

This program, called "Alameda Wild!" is a docent-education program based on the Alameda National Wildlife Refuge. In this program, our Audubon volunteer docents go into classrooms with a slide presentation and a set of other activities (such activities include: food web bingo; a bird call station; a woodblock food pyramid; a food chain map of the Refuge; etc.) We have two different curriculums one for 2nd/3rd grade classes and one for 4th/5th grade classes. Last year we took four 4th/5th-grade classes onto the future Refuge grounds for a field trip that included another set of activities. We also trained 14 high school students to be docents and they went into the classrooms with our adult volunteers. This was a very successful effort and much appreciated by the high school students who also attended at least one after-school docent work session in which we analyzed the success of the program. This part of the program provides educational career training for these high school students. We visited over 100 classrooms in Alameda.

We are, of course, doing a lot more than Alameda. For example, we are continuing our 5-year "Breeding Bird Atlas" program that will, when completed, provide essential information on breeding birds in Alameda County.

We have started a "Save the Quail" Campaign in San Francisco. The

California Quail is our state bird. Yet, its native population in San Francisco is rapidly disappearing. There are many reasons for this, one being a loss of habitat. We have organized a volunteer program to monitor the remaining quail in the city and to begin habitat restoration efforts. We will work with the City Department of Recreation and Parks, with the Strybing Arboretum and with schools throughout the City in this worthwhile effort. We have received enthusiastic support from all of them.

Over the last year we organized and implemented a scientific monitoring program on the avian usage of the restored wetlands at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in Oakland. This is part of a 5-year monitoring program that will be very helpful in helping scientists design future wetland restoration projects. Over 35 Audubon volunteers help in this study going out to census birds four times a month, rain or shine.

This wetland restoration project was the direct result of GGAS efforts. In 1986 the Golden Gate Audubon Society initiated a lawsuit against the Port of Oakland and the Army Corps of Engineers in order to save hundreds of acres of wetlands from being destroyed by. That suit was finally settled and most of the wetlands were saved. In 1995 the Port and Golden Gate Audubon started the planning process to restore 71.5 acres of wetlands at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Regional Shoreline Park in San Leandro Bay as compensation for those wetlands that were destroyed. The initial restoration work was completed in June of 1998.

We continued our efforts to preserve the Gateway Valley in Orinda from development. This 980-acre

near-pristine valley has over 5 miles of streams and over 7 acres of rare wetland seeps and pools. It hosts over 70 wildlife species including two threatened or endangered species. Over thirty bird species nest in Gateway Valley. This last year we hired experts to help analyze the impacts of the project on the streams and wetlands. Those impacts were shown to be very significant and destructive.

We have also issued a study, funded by us, performed by professional resource economists that demonstrates that the proposed Gateway residential project can be substantially reduced in size by eliminating a proposed golf course while still being eminently profitable. This study showed that in urban areas, homeowners are as willing to pay a premium for housing that is adjacent to natural open space areas as they are for housing that is adjacent to a golf course. Most of the impacts of the

Gateway project come from a golf course associated with proposed housing. Our study shows that the applicant can obtain the same economic return without the golf course. The final conclusion to this issue remains in doubt.

CALFED is a state and federal agency effort to resolve California's water problems. How to provide enough fresh water for both the human and wildlife inhabitants of our state is a question that has yet to be answered. Our Executive Director has been working on this issue for years and continues to go to countless meetings to help everyone reach a satisfactory conclusion to this problem.

Finally, but far from least in importance is our Armchair Activist network. Over 150 Audubon members respond to monthly alerts by writing short letters on issues of environmental importance. These letters help shape public policy for our

natural resources. Anyone interested in joining this group should call our Audubon office at 510-843-2222.

To accomplish all these goals required a budget of \$173,668 and several thousand hours of volunteer and staff effort. Well over 200 volunteers assist us in our activities. We continue to search for additional funding to enable us to better meet our constantly increasing needs. Additional information may be obtained by calling our office at 510-843-2222.

Our Board of Directors will be found on the back cover. The Executive Director of Golden Gate Audubon Society is Arthur Feinstein. Our Program Director for our East Bay efforts is Dana Kokubun and our Education Coordinator is Amy Mayeno.

Arthur Feinstein
Executive Director

GGAS Nature Store

The GGAS Nature Store is pleased to offer following bird-related products

Bird Seed

- Niger thistle which is food for goldfinches and pine siskins
- Black-oil sunflower seed (loved by our native birds)
- Black-oil sunflower chips (no hulls so no mess)
- A millet mix (particularly attractive for sparrows and doves)
- Our own Audubon mix containing two kinds of millet and sunflower seed (attracts almost all birds). Prices range from \$9 for a 20-pound bag to \$19.50 for a 50-pound bag

Feeders

- The best tube feeder made, perfect for the seed listed above (\$28) and

also a squirrel-proof feeder (\$46)

- Three styles of hummingbird feeders (\$10 to 15.50)
- Suet cages (\$5.50) and suet cakes (\$2.98)

Apparel

- GGAS baseball style hats (always in fashion!) are \$15
- T-shirts with a beautiful drawing of a Western Snowy Plover by our own Alan Hopkins on the front (\$10)

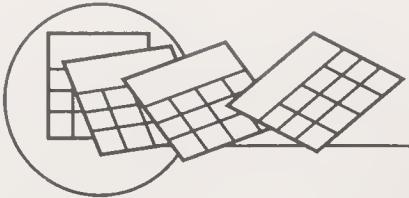
Books and Checklists

- The National Geographic Field Guide to the Birds of North America, \$18.50, (widely considered to be the best general field guide available)
- Birds of San Francisco and the Bay Area, by our own Joe Morlan, \$9.95, (great for beginners and kids)

- An Annotated checklist to the Birds of Northern California, \$6.50, published by GGAS, will help you identify common and not-so-common birds in the San Francisco Bay Area

- Checklist to the Birds of Mexico, also published by GGAS, \$6, will help you identify birds should you head to the warmer climes of our neighbor to the south
- Finally, no serious birder is without Jean Richmond's, Birding Northern California, for \$10, still the definitive text for birding hot spots in Northern California, and Birding the San Francisco Peninsula, for \$14.95, a comprehensive treatment of West Bay birding hot spots

Come on by and browse or give us a call (510-845-2222). We do mail everything but the seed with a reasonable shipping charge.



February Meeting

"If It's Tuesday, This Must Be Noumea"

Imagine that you have to use up your pile of frequent flyer miles by the end of the year. Where would you go? This was the problem facing Don Roberson and Rita Carratello a couple years ago. They ended up jetting off to New Zealand on Christmas Day for a whirlwind visit to the North Island, Australia and New Caledonia. They were particularly interested in searching for the most unique birds

in these remote locales—birds so odd that they have their own families. Join Don on February 17 at 7:30 p.m. to follow them on their adventure in search of six new families in just ten days. They figured seeing half of them would have been a great trip.

Based in Monterey, Don is currently the Regional Editor (landbirds) for North American Birds magazine. He has been Secretary of the California Bird Records Committee. He has had the good fortune of see-

Thursday, February 17, 2000
7:00 p.m. Refreshments/Doors open
7:30 p.m. Program
Northbrae Community Church
941 The Alameda, Berkeley

ing about half the world's birds, while retaining his special interest in Monterey County. Don has authored *Birders; California, Monterey Birds, Rare Birds of the West Coast*, and (co-authored) *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Monterey County*. He will be selling and signing some of his books at the meeting, with special discounts for GGAS members. Join us for this informative and exciting evening with Don Roberson.

Dr. Mussen is a member of the Yolo County Audubon Society, as well, and will surprise us with some "interfaces" of bee and bird. Dr. Mussen is a member of various beekeepers associations and has been the U.C. Extension Apiculturist at Davis since 1976. Come find out the facts and fears about the africanized honeybees, as well as ask all the questions you ever had about the challenges and rewards of beekeeping.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

As a member of National Audubon Society, you are automatically enrolled in the local chapter, Golden Gate Audubon Society. Chapter benefits include receipt of *The Gull*, access to field trips and programs, and the opportunity to volunteer. Call the office if you have any questions.

Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702

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Education
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Field Trips – Lillian Fujii – 510-236-4167
Finance – Mary Foley
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Latin American Committee
Bob Risebrough 510-549-2476
Program – Carol Kern 650-370-3703
Publicity – Nancy DeStefanis
Membership – Becca Freed 510-549-5235

Other

Observations
Collin G. Murphy, Ph.D. 510-845-2565
GGAS Webmaster
Mark Eaton – eaton@best.com
Northern California Bird Box
415-681-7422

Editor

Peter Caldwell 415-821-0212,
Peter_Caldwell@attglobal.net

Executive Director
Arthur Feinstein 510-843-2222

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Golden Gate Audubon Society
2530 San Pablo Avenue, Suite G
Berkeley, CA 94702
Phone: (510) 843-2222
Fax: (510) 843-5351

Office Hours:
Tuesday – Friday 9-12, 1-4 (please call first)

Website: <http://goldengate.ca.audubon.org>
e-mail: ggas@compuserve.com

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